

**KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES OF CARETAKERS ON PREVENTION OF BURNS  
IN KWARHONDA COUNTY ASSEMBLY WARD**

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## ABSTRACT

Worldwide, burn injuries are a major problem as they cause intense pain. Long-term morbidity and the subsequent scarring is often a significant problem for burn survivors that create suffering for the individual, family and community. According to Ndiritu et al. (2006), in low-income and middle-income countries, children under the age of five years have been shown to have a disproportionately higher rate of burns than is the case in high-income countries. In Kenya, 48.6% of children presenting to the Kenyatta National Hospital with burn injuries were under the age of five years. The objectives of the research included determination knowledge of caretakers on predisposing factors of burns in children, knowledge of caretakers on prevention of burns, to establish practices of caretakers regarding prevention of burns in children. This research adopted a descriptive cross sectional study design targeting caretakers of children aged 1-12 years living in KwaRhonda County Assembly Ward. The sample size was 384. The data was collected using questionnaire and analyzed using SPSS version 21. The response rate was approximate 96% with a majority of the respondents being women. A majority of the burns (59%) was a result of children being delegated cooking chores. Most of the burn injuries did not occur due to size of the house and most of the households use fossil fuel for cooking (kerosene (69%) and charcoal (71%). The research also found out that 85% of the respondents have not attended any form training on prevention of burns. Very few respondents store hot fluids or object in and flammable object in locked cabinets. The research found out that 32% of the respondents reported their knowledge on fire safety measures was above average. This is attributed to the fact that a majority (85%) of the respondents have not attended any form training on prevention of burns. There is need to develop the capacity on the knowledge on burn prevention among the caretakers with middle or low income level so as to reduce the child burn injury incidences.